

ARACHNID NOTES.

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(Nine Text-figures.)

[Read 30th August, 1944.]

ARGAS LAGENOPLASTIS Froggatt, 1906.

PROC. LINN. SOC. N.S.W., xxxi, 408.

Female.—Oval, widest slightly posterior of the anal opening (Figs. 1, 2). Margin (Fig. 3) about the same width as in *A. persicus* (Oken) composed of somewhat oblong units or 'cells' without a circular pit. Discs mainly round, arranged as shown in figure. Venter: anal opening (Fig. 4) somewhat posterior of the centre, anal ring smooth. Spiracles (Fig. 5) small, crescentic, cribriform, equal to half the diameter of the anal ring, its anterior margin slightly above the posterior margin of the third coxa; genital opening opposite coxa II. Capitulum (Fig. 6): base ventrally with two long stout, post-hypostomal forwardly-directed hairs. Palps (Fig. 7) only slightly longer than hypostome, second segment the longest, third segment the shortest, first and fourth segments about equal in length. Chelicerae and hypostome as illustrated (Fig. 8a, b). Legs: coxa I is widely separated from coxa II, coxae II–IV about evenly separated, tarsus of leg I (Fig. 9) as illustrated. Colour: dorsum dark reddish-brown, dorsal border somewhat

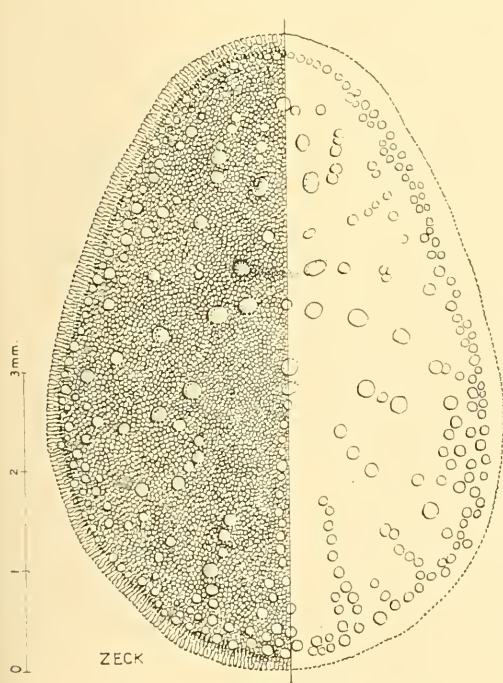


Fig. 1.—*Argas lagenoplastis* Froggatt.
♀, dorsal view.

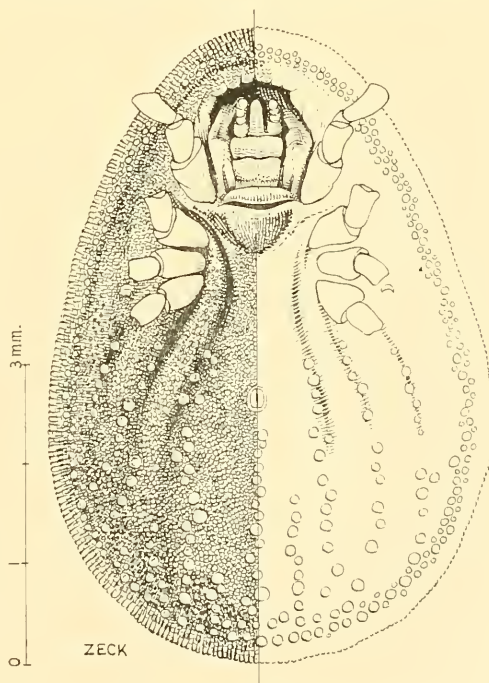


Fig. 2.—*Argas lagenoplastis* Froggatt.
♀, ventral view.

paler, legs light reddish-brown, bases of trochanters appear to be very pale, anal opening dull whitish, almost ashen. Length: 6.0×4.5 (*vix*) mm.

Host: *Hylochelidon ariel* Gould (Fairy Martin).

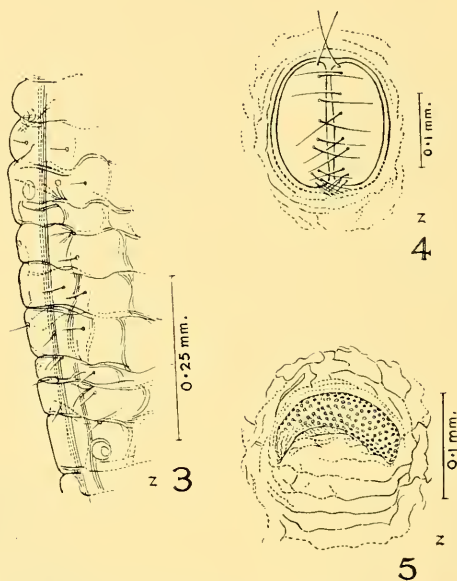
Loc.: N.S.W.: Gilgandra.

Froggatt's description is inadequate and without illustrations. It reads as follows:

"Length $2\frac{1}{4}$ lines. Reddish-brown, with the dorsal surface mottled with light yellow; undersurface dull yellow, with the legs very pale yellow to almost white. Broadly oval, flattened on the dorsal surface, with the integument finely rugose and marked with irregular depressions.

"*Hab.*—Merriwa and Narromine, N.S.W.

"This tick is common in the clay nests of the Fairy Martin or 'Bottle-nest Swallow', *Petrochelidon (Lagenoplastes) ariel*. . ."



Figs. 3-5.—*Argas lagenoplastis* Froggatt. ♀. 3. Portion of integument from posterior dorsal border. 4. Anus. 5. Ventral view of left spiracle.

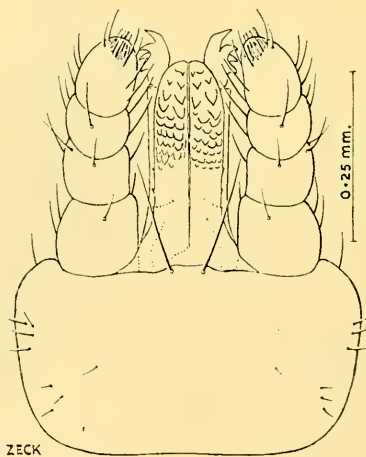
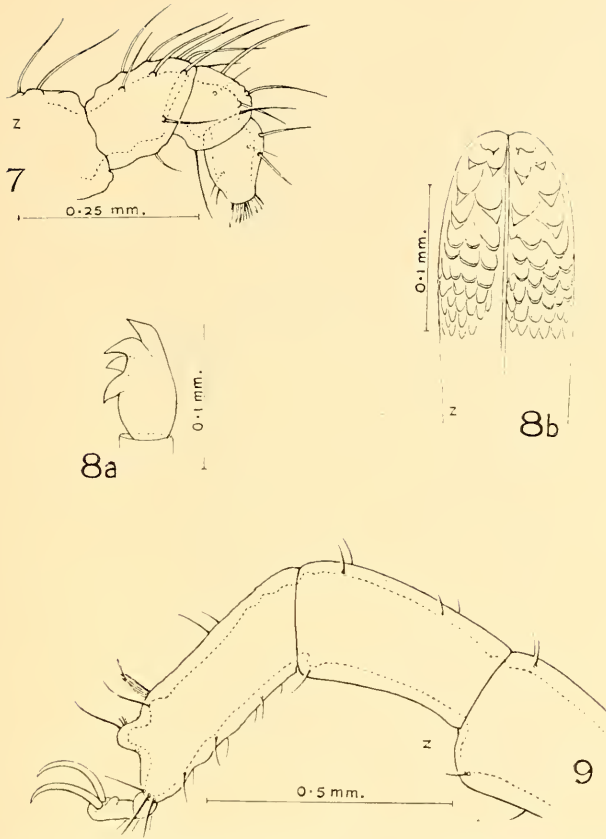


Fig. 6.—*Argas lagenoplastis* Froggatt. ♀. Capitulum.



Figs. 7-9.—*Argas lagenoplastis* Froggatt. ♀. 7. Right palp. 8a. Digit. 8b. Hypostome. 9. Leg I.

Froggatt also stated that Mr. Masters had shown him specimens in the Macleay Museum that he (Masters) had collected in Queensland about 1874.

Froggatt's type and other specimens are lost. They are not in the Entomological Collection in the Department of Agriculture, Sydney, neither are they in the Froggatt Collection at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Division of Entomology, Canberra.

It is presumed therefore that the species under review from Gilgandra is the same as that which Froggatt named.

The description which I have given should be sufficient, with the text-figures, to identify this tick until such time as my friend, D. C. Swan, is demobilized and returns to civilian duties and his work on Australian ticks.

Neotype, K67638, in the Australian Museum, Sydney. There are thirteen other specimens also in the Museum Collection.

HAEMAPHYSALIS MERAUKENSIS, new name.

Krijgsman and Ponto gave the name of *novae-guineae* to a species of *Haemaphysalis* in 1932 (*Vecartsenijk. Meded.* No. lxxix, 17) quite overlooking the fact that Hirst in 1914 (*Trans. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, xx (10): 328, fig. 16) had used the same specific name also for a species of the same genus. Therefore a change of name is necessary.